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November 28, 1975

Copy No. 666

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

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CONTENTS *(November 28, 1975)*

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23 Argentina: Military Role Grows

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The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

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Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

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Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

Searching operation against Argentine terrorists

ARGENTINA: MILITARY ROLE GROWS

President Peron, still fighting to remain in office, is temporarily benefiting from increased military participation in the anti-terrorist struggle.

Military leaders seem pleased that the administration finally acceded to their long-standing wish for greater participation in the counterinsurgency effort. The armed forces are acting on the basis of last month's presidential decrees establishing national defense and internal security councils. Intensified counterinsurgency operations may divert those officers who otherwise might be plotting against the President.

In recent weeks, the police and the military services have carried out large-scale operations in Tucuman Province, long a terrorist stronghold. They have also conducted numerous searches in urban and rural areas elsewhere, and road and highway checkpoints have been set up all over the country. Hundreds of suspected subversives reportedly have been arrested, and some have been killed in sweeps that for the first time have been supported by helicopters and other aircraft.

For the moment, the increased military role in the conterinsurgency effort seems to be alleviating the pressure on Peron. In the longer run, however, it could pave the way for greater military influence in national affairs.

Already the service chiefs are reportedly pressing to have their greater powers formalized. They are backing new legislation that would not only recognize armed forces authority in the anti-guerrilla struggle but would expand the definition of subversion to include financial wrongdoing and corruption in office. This could prove particularly worrisome to an administration that is trying to block an investigation of high-level corruption that could well incriminate Peron. Senate president Luder is said to have told colleagues that failure to oblige the officers on this bill could lead to a military coup.

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Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412

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Approved for Release: 2018/10/26 C02898412